



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## 20th March 2026



**THIS WEEK'S STAR OF THE WEEK CERTIFICATES HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO:**



Grace Bonsall	C1	Being confident to try new things and showing independence.
Class 2	C2	Trying so hard in all their assessments
Oscar Robinson	C3	Great progress in reading
Barney Taylor	C4	For amazing improvement in his maths
<b>PE Star of the Week</b> Eva Grybas	C4	A mature and sensitive approach when being honest with team members

### W/C 16th March—Events

#### Monday

Class 3 & 4—arrive in PE kits.

#### Tuesday

**Swimming—years 1-3**

Reception, Years 5 & 6 to arrive in outdoor PE kit.

#### Wednesday

Class 2—PE

**Years 1&2 Sports Hall**

**Athletics**

**3.30pm Tilberthwaite meeting for parents of Class 3.**

#### Thursday

2.50pm—Celebration

Assembly

**CAKE SALE—Bring 50p/£1**

#### Friday

Class 1 Forest Friday. Bring wellies.

**EASTER SERVICE 1.35pm, Preston Patrick Church.**

**Term ends 2pm.**

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS Spring Term 2

#### Mon

Y 3-6 Netball 3.20—4.30pm

#### Tues

Y3-6 Football 3.20-4.30pm

#### Weds

**NO CLUBS.**

**3.30pm TILBERTHWAITE MEETING**

#### Thurs

Y3 Recorder Club 3.20– 4pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **EASTER SERVICE**

The final week of the spring term is upon us, which will end with our Easter Service in church. We will be going up to church at 1pm on the coach, which KT coaches kindly offer us for free.

The coach should arrive at 1:10 and it takes us five minutes to get up to church; so I would recommend that if you are coming along, that you arrive before this time or afterwards. We hope to start the service at 1:35pm with a 2pm finish.

**All children (Reception to Year 6) are to be collected from church at 2pm. If you have arranged for someone else to collect your child, please let the office know no later than Friday morning at 10am. Pre-school children will be finishing at 1pm and should be collected from school.**

### **BREWERY DANCE**

On Monday this week I went along to the Brewery Arts Theatre with Class 4, who were performing their piece on stage along with other schools in our area. Mrs Towe had based the children's dance on the book Holes, by Louis Sachar, which the children have been reading as a class novel.

I was absolutely amazed by the construction of the dance and how well the children performed it. It was an intricate piece with lots of costume changes and props, but it was delivered brilliantly by the children.

Mrs Towe is such an amazing PE lead, who works so hard to ensure that all children have these amazing opportunities. The Brewery Dance is definitely one of those memories that our children will never forget I'm sure.

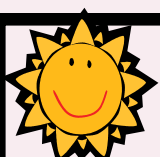
### **SWIMATHON**

Our amazing swimmers swam a combined total of 11 miles on Saturday to raise funds for the whole school. Thank you to the staff, children and parents who all gave up their Saturday to support this event.

Thank you also to those who have donated/sponsored the swimmers to help raise funds for school. If you would like to make a donation and have not yet done so, please bring it to the office before the end of term. Thank you.

### **BAKE SALE - Thursday, 26th March.**

Please bring any donations of home baking to the office on the morning of the 26th. The School Council/Year 6 children will sell these at morning break. £1 for large cakes and 50p for smaller ones. Any leftover cakes will be sold off at the end of the school day. Please send children in with coins rather than notes.



**HEADTEACHER'S AWARD:**  
**Mrs Towe and Class 4 for their fantastic performance at the Brewery Arts**



## BOOK REVIEW - MRS WINTERBURN

This week's book review has been written by Mrs Winterburn.

### First / Early Books I Enjoyed

'Postman Pat' by John Arthur Cunliffe.

These books were always fun to read. They had everything a toddler might like; a cute pet cat, some familiar characters and usually some sort of calamity that Pat and his trusty sidekick Jess would need to overcome—with the help of some of his friends and neighbours such as Mrs Goggins or Alf Thompson. The familiar characters and repetition of phrases in these books was a great way to consolidate early reading.

### Favourite Childhood Book

'Emil and The Detectives' by Erich Kastner

Set in pre-war Berlin, the book follows Emil, who is tasked by his mother to make the trip via train to his grandmother to stay with her for a few nights, and to take her some money his mother has saved. On the train Emil encounters a shady man. Emil falls asleep on the long journey and wakes up to find that the man has disappeared—and so has his money! Emil is not to be defeated, however, and sets about tracking the man down and gathers a band of kids together who all play a role in helping him. They end up outsmarting the man from the train, and not only does Emil recover his money, but it turns out that the man was wanted by the police and so Emil receives a huge reward as well! As a ten year old this appealed to me on a few levels; going on and adventure with no parents, capturing 'baddies', leading a troop of crime busting friends and of course out-smarting grown ups!

### Most Recent Read

'One for Sorrow, Two for Joy' by Marie-Claire Amuah

I am very much a stick to what you know when it comes to books, but every so often I think I ought to try and broaden my horizon and look at something completely different. This book was quite a departure from my usual diet of crime/police procedurals and it made a refreshing change.

Stella is a successful barrister, with a nice flat and (on the surface) lifestyle. She is traumatised, however, by her upbringing and early life. Her one source of unwavering loyalty and love comes from her friends who are always there for her and support her. At the end of the book, there is optimism. It is a defiant story of friendship, resilience and hope.

Kind regards.

*S Edmondson*

Head Teacher





# NEW BALANCE BIKE UPDATE!

We are excited to share that our school has recently been given a new set of balance bikes for our Early Years children through the *Bikeability* scheme. Balance bikes are specially designed bikes without pedals. Children move them along using their feet, which helps them learn balance and coordination before moving on to a pedal bike.

To receive the balance bikes, Mrs Towe and Mrs Ashlin attended a training course with *Bikeability*. Since completing the course, they have started a new programme in EYFS to help children learn the fundamental skills needed to ride a bike confidently and safely. The sessions have been very well received by the children and are fun, active, and encouraging.



Both members of staff jumped at the chance to be part of this scheme at St Patrick's, as they have always been great advocates for using balance bikes. Their own children all learned to ride a pedal bike at the age of three, thanks to starting on balance bikes as soon as they were able.

## Why balance bikes?

Research and experience show that learning to balance first makes learning to ride a bike much easier and more enjoyable. Some of the key benefits of:

- **Developing balance and coordination** - the most important skills needed for cycling
- **Building confidence and independence** - once children learn to ride a bike, it is a skill for life that they can hopefully continue to enjoy into adulthood
- **Encouraging physical activity and time outdoors** - both of which have significant benefits for mental and physical health
- **Improving core strength and motor skills** - this can also support the development of fine motor skills, which are essential for learning to write
- **Helping children progress to pedal bikes more quickly and naturally**



### Why don't we support the use of stabilisers?

While stabilisers were commonly used in the past, they actually teach children to lean the wrong way when turning and can delay the development of real balance. Balance bikes allow children to learn the correct skills from the beginning, making the transition to a pedal bike much smoother. Many children who learn on balance bikes can move straight to a pedal bike without ever needing stabilisers.

If your older children are not yet able to ride a bike, you can temporarily remove the pedals from a child's pedal bike and allow them to scoot around on it like a balance bike until they are ready to try again with pedals.



We look forward to seeing the children develop their confidence and enjoy learning this fantastic life skill.



If you have any questions about the programme or would like advice on supporting your child's cycling at home, please feel free to speak to Mrs Towe or Mrs Ashlin. This applies to any children in school, not just those in EYFS.

Shout out for unused pedal bikes!!!  
If you have a pedal bike at home for children sized Reception class to Y4 (that you currently are not using), then please donate it to school.

